that the St. Casimir's Mission Society Fund was organized under the leadership of Dr. John Bruton and the Parish Council. The Mission Society is affiliated with the Divine Word Missionaries of Techny, Illinois contributing to the Wenchi Water Project in Ghana, Africa. Contributions are also made periodically to the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid which helps the oppressed Church in Lithuania. Our present day participation in the Community Pantry was an extension of our Thanksgiving Food Drive of 1986.

Father Anthony Slosar of St. Catherine's faculty served St. Casimir's Parish for many years as an associate. His untimely death in January 1987, prompted Father Augunas to initiate a fund drive to establish a memorial honoring Father Slosar and all priests who served St. Casimir's. The memorial in the rectory garden is the statue of the Blessed Mother which stands in an enclosure (hand-carved, by our parishioner Petras Nekrosius) which is typical of Lithuanian wayside shrines.

Father Jean Blais, SDS, has been with St. Casimir's since February, 1987 as the weekend associate of Pastor Augunas.

Recent improvements in preparation for the 75th Jubilee included installation of a public address system in the church as well as repainting the church interior.

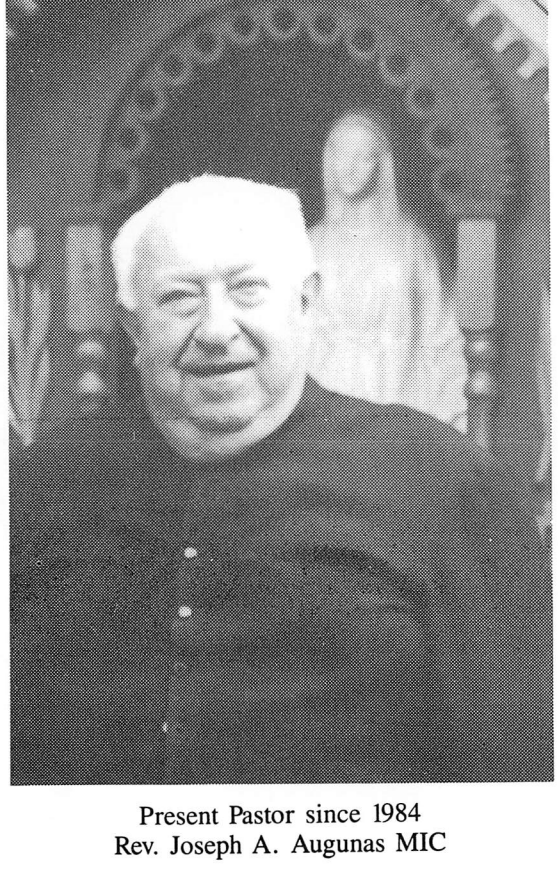
Father Augunas celebrated his 45th Anniversary in the Priesthood in August 1988. He faithfully served parishes in Connecticut, New York, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Chosen by God, Father Augunas has enriched many lives with his devotion, prayers, and guidance. Ad Multos Annos! Ilgiausiu Metu!

Some of our parishioners are "new" Americans who had been displaced from their homeland, Lithuania, when they fled from Communist persecution after World War II. Many were university educated, members of professions, skilled workers, and landowners. This group revitalized the parish by their active participation in the church choir and promoting social functions nurturing our Lithuanian roots. They are actively involved in cultural and political organizations namely; Lithuanian American Council, American Lithuanian Community, Lithuanian National Guard in Exile, and the Lithuanian Women's Club.

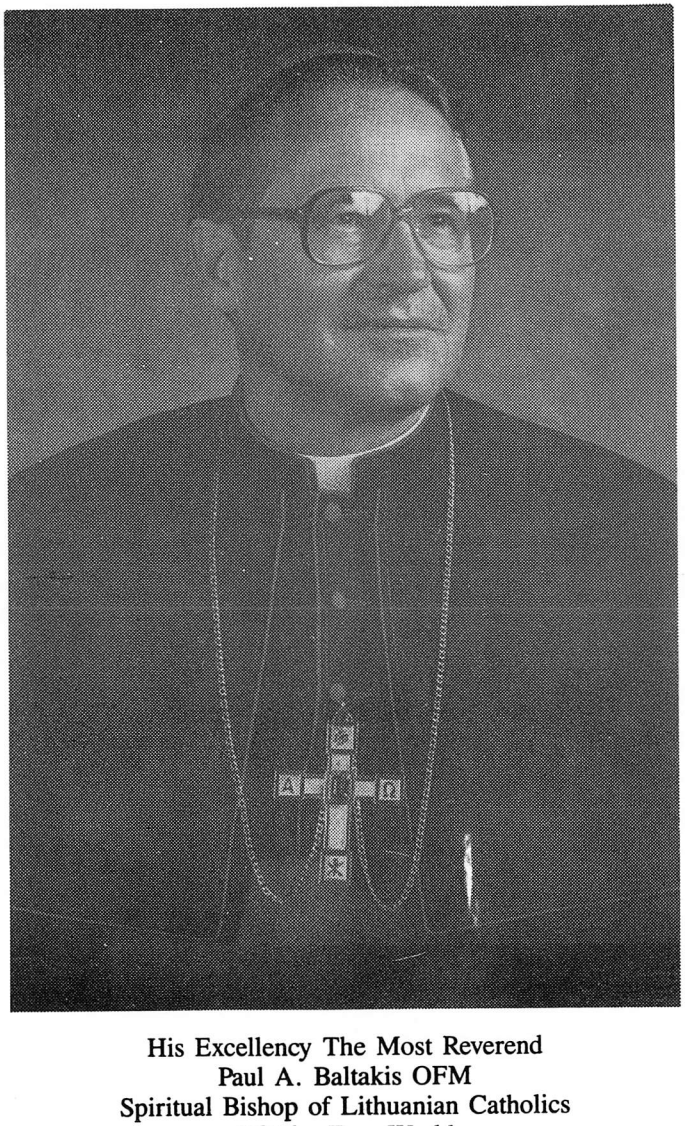
Though St. Casimir's Church was founded by Lithuanian immigrants, non-Lithuanian membership is increasing yearly. Many members are serving the parish as lectors, ushers, and Parish Council members.

May St. Casimir guide us in all our endeavors, and may the future members learn from those early immigrants that through Faith and Trust in God great things can be accomplished. "WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY."

St. Casimir's Church - 1988



Present Pastor since 1984
Rev. Joseph A. Augunas MIC



His Excellency The Most Reverend
Paul A. Baltakis OFM
Spiritual Bishop of Lithuanian Catholics
Of The Free World

the celebrant of the Mass as the parish celebrated its 50th Golden Jubilee, assisted by two former pastors--Rev. Vincent Andriuska and Rev. Joseph Kupris. He was responsible for the introduction of commentators (lectors) at all Masses. During his pastorate, the new main altar facing the congregation, as required by Vatican II, was donated in memory of charter members Grasilda and Sam Zupek, by their children and friends.

Rev. Peter Cinikas, MIC, served as pastor from 1966 to 1969, when he returned to Chicago to resume his duties as Administrator of the "Draugas" (Friend), a Lithuanian World-Wide Daily Newspaper, which many of our parishioners have subscribed to over the years. He was responsible for the successful fund drive to purchase the organ in use today and for increasing the church parking area by purchasing adjacent property north of the church. Today we realize rental income from downtown employees for weekday parking privileges.

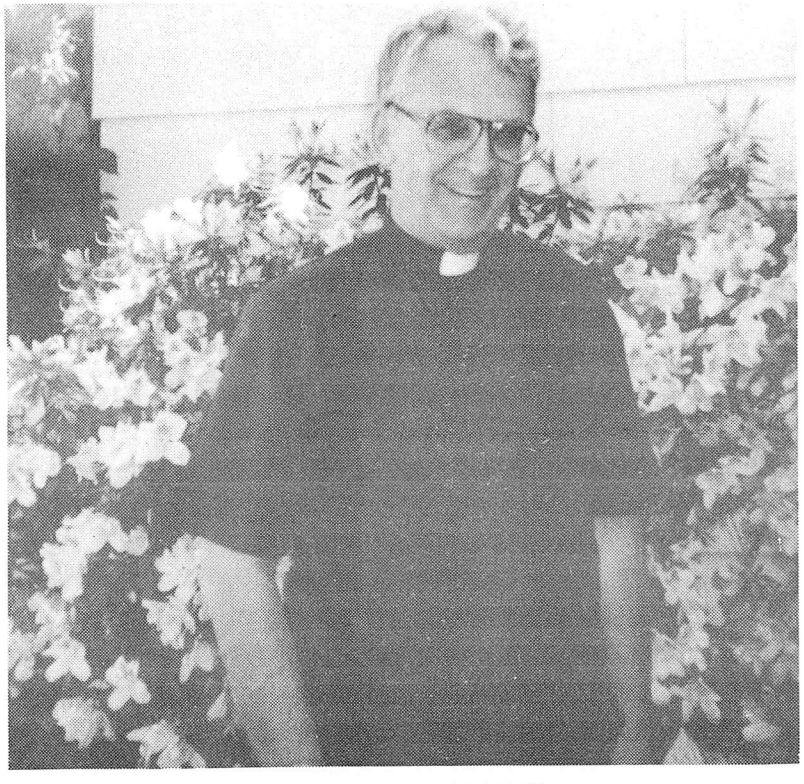
In 1969, Rev. Joseph Kupris was reassigned to St. Casimir's. One of the greatest accomplishments during this pastorate was Father's enthusiastic endorsement of laity participation in parish matters. This resulted in the formation of the first Parish Council of St. Casimir's in 1979, as recommended by the Archdiocese. In May 1980, he re-activated the Altar Society, whose membership now includes both women and men. They share the responsibility of altar care and certain social functions such as coffee hours, etc. In 1981, due to poor health, Father Kupris was replaced by Rev. Stanley Saplis, MIC, formerly of St. Peter's Church of Kenosha.

After twenty years of use, Father Saplis saw the need to replace certain appliances and redecorate the rectory. Necessary repairs to the church were made--roof repaired, tuck pointing, hall walls sealed and refinished, and lower windows of the church replaced with glass block for energy saving as well as security. Father Saplis also contracted with the Liturgical Press of Milwaukee to secure ads, print, and deliver our Sunday bulletins beginning May 1982. In 1984, Father Saplis was re-assigned to St. Peter's.

After an absence of almost 35 years, Rev. Joseph Augunas, MIC, returned to St. Casimir's Church. It was at this time

CLERGY

1910-1913 — REV. THEODORE MEYER
Summer of 1913 — REV. G. GUGIS
1913-1914 — REV. VINCENT SLAVINAS
1914-1915 — REV. C. F. SZATKUS
REV. ANTHONY BALINSKI
REV. J. TESKEVICIUS
1915-1916 — REV. PETER VAITONIS
1916-1919 — REV. VINCENT SLAVINAS
REV. J. JAKSTIS
1920-1922 — REV. A. DAUGIS
1922-1934 — REV. ANTHONY BALINSKI
1934-1941 — REV. JOSEPH MARTIS
1941-1942 — REV. SIMON DRAUGELIS
1942-1943 — REV. JOHN SAULIS, MIC
REV. ADAM JESKEVICIUS, MIC
1943-1944 — REV. FRANK SKRODENIS, MIC
1944-1945 — REV. ANTHONY IGNOTAS, MIC
1945-1947 — REV. ADAM JESKEVICIUS, MIC
1947-1950 — REV. JOSEPH AUGUNAS, MIC
1950-1953 — REV. BENJAMIN UZDAVINYS, MIC
1953-1954 — REV. EDMUND BUDRECKIS, MIC
1954-1957 — REV. DR. VINCENT ANDRIUSKA, MIC, PASTOR
REV. CASIMIR VENGRAS, MIC
REV. JOHN KLEBAUSKAS, MIC
1957-1963 — REV. JOSEPH KUPRIS, MIC, PASTOR
REV. JOSEPH MACIULIONIS, MIC
1963-1966 — REV. BONIFACE VAISNORAS, MIC, PASTOR
1966-1969 — REV. PETER CINIKAS, MIC, PASTOR
1969-1981 — REV. JOSEPH KUPRIS, MIC, PASTOR
REV. RICHARD BALNIS, MIC
REV. PETER REMEIKA, MIC
1981-1984 — REV. STANLEY SAPLIS, MIC, PASTOR
1984 — REV. JOSEPH AUGUNAS, MIC, PASTOR
REV. JEAN BLAIS, SDS



Former Pastor 1954-1957
Rev. Dr. Vincent F. Andriuska
of Miami, Florida

interior of the church were remodeled - costing approximately $100,000. The congregation was left with a debt of only $35,000 because of the generosity of parishioners and friends who donated new pews and many furnishings for the church and rectory. The Young People's Club organized by Father "Andy" and composed of first generation Americans worked diligently to help the debt reduction by raising money through solicited ads, concerts, bake and rummage sales, picnics, annual dinners, bazaars, and New Year's Eve Balls. The six-foot white marble statue of St. Casimir above the main entrance to the church--entirely hand-carved and imported from Italy--was donated by charter member Matilda Zukauskas and her husband Joseph.

The rectory was dedicated December 18, 1955, by Bishop Roman C. Atkielski of Milwaukee and Bishop Vincent Brzgys in attendance. At this time Reverend Andriuska became the first resident pastor, and our status was elevated from a mission to a parish offering three Sunday Masses and daily morning Masses.

In 1957, Father Andriuska was followed by another energetic Marian Father, Rev. Joseph Kupris. During his six years at St. Casimir's, he liquidated all debts, built a two-car garage, and renovated the rectory basement into a recreation room where meetings could be held. The inside of the church was also improved--walls redecorated, altars refinished, wiring brought up to code, and new stained glass windows installed. Many benefactors from outside the parish aided in these projects, including one who had the church air-conditioned, making it one of the first Catholic churches in the city to have this comfort. The Sunday Church Bulletin was initiated during this time. Father "Joe" composed, cut the stencil, and mimeographed the weekly bulletin until Stan Budrys assumed this responsibility in 1963.

In the 1960's, priests from St. Catherine's High School Faculty began assisting our pastors at Sunday Masses. Among those were the Reverends Cletus Uhen, Anthony Zukaitis, Joseph Safiejko, Anthony Slosar, and Leon Schneider.

Rev. Boniface Vaisnoras, MIC, who came in September 1963, continued the good work of his predecessors. He was

his own diocese.

The twenty years between 1921 and 1941 were busy ones, especially for the children of the immigrants. There were frequent card and bunco parties, dances, bazaars, and dramatic productions in the church hall. Picnics, outings, and organized ball teams also occupied their time. This too was the period of time when a great percentage of our first generation was lost in the "melting pot of America". They left the parish as they married or went into the armed services during World War II. Two of our service men never returned--Anthony Glebis and Joseph Gutowski.

Membership began to dwindle. This probably would not have happened had the congregation built a school and a rectory. Through all those years the priests came from Milwaukee or Kenosha to offer one Sunday Mass, either 8:30 a.m. or 11 a.m., on alternate Sundays. Minutes of the annual meetings show that members voted time and again for a rectory, but it never materialized until 1955.

The Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception began to serve St. Casimir's Congregation in 1942. There was no great change in the spiritual life or the financial affairs of the parish until September 1954, when a young, energetic priest, Rev. Dr. Vincent Andriuska, MIC, was assigned to St. Casimir's. Promptly he took residence at St. Mary's Hospital in Racine so he could serve the members better spiritually. In a short time, he initiated a drive to build a rectory and remodel the front of the church. After many meetings with committeemen and contractors, ground was broken on May 6, 1955, for the first rectory the congregation ever had. Sponsors at this ceremony were Agatha Zizminskas and Anton Waslof, with Bishop Vincent Brizgys of Chicago, a Lithuanian bishop in exile, blessing the event.

Immediately the men and women rallied to support the project. Many parishioners loaned money to the church to finance the project, and contributions came in readily. The men of the parish donated many hours assisting in construction and performing odd jobs in order to save money.

The final results were very gratifying--a rectory and an addition to the front of the church were built; the hall and

TRUSTEES 1913-1988

Louis Bunauskas
Felix Ragauskas
Teofil Galiszanskis
M. Adomaitis
V. Bardauskas
Joseph Kesminas
Vincent Barkausas
J. Zukauskas
Vincent Schapalas
Joseph Staponas
A. Jelinskas
P. Petkievicius
Mike Digris
A. A. Gudziunas
Adam Simonavicius
Leonas Taujienas
Ancietas Bubelis
J. J. Simonavicius
Bernard Piepol
Stanley Shepikas
Dominic Doksus
Thomas Zizminskas
Anton Urbush
Alba Gregory
Alex Kraujalis
Stanley Budrys
Edward Shimkus
Joseph Pleckaitis
Charles Tyllo

ST. CASIMIR'S PARISH COUNCIL

Walter Aperavich, President
Thomas Beranis, Vice President
Louise Stankus, Secretary

Members At Large:
Ted Anderson
Stan Budrys
Jack Carney
Wally Christine
Casimira Grzyb
Viktoras Kazemekaitis
Lionginas Pliura

Ex-Officio Members:
Rev. Joseph Augunas, Pastor
Joseph Pleckaitis
Parish Treasurer
Charles Tyllo
Parish Secretary

ST. CASIMIR'S

75th DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

2 P.M. ANNIVERSARY MASS
St. Casimir's Church - 815 Park Avenue

Celebrant
Most Reverend Bishop Paul A. Baltakis, OFM
Spiritual Bishop of Lithuanian Catholics
Of The Free World

Concelebrants
Rev. Dr. Vincent F. Andriuska, Miami, Florida
Former Pastor
Rev. Joseph A. Augunas, MIC
Present Pastor

5 P.M. BANQUET
Roma Lodge - 7130 Spring Street

Master of Ceremonies
Vyto Kapocius

Dinner

Greetings, including
Rev. Ralph Gross, Chancellor/Vicar General
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Principal Speaker
Rev. Dr. Vincent F. Andriuska

Entertainment
"Klumpe" Lithuanian Folk Dancers

Live Music and dancing for all.

His Excellency The Most Reverend
Rembert G. Weakland OSB
Archbishop of Milwaukee

a school would have been a wise move.

Better times came to the parish following World War I. Wages rose and the families were better established economically by that time. Probably the "golden years" of the parish commenced with the arrival of Rev. Anthony Balinski in 1922. Under his leadership, the $10,000 mortgage to the Fire Association of Philadelphia was satisfied on March 4, 1926 which coincidentally is St. Casimir's Day.

These were "good" years, so a remodeling project was initiated. The original church had one altar and the east wall extended only as far back as the side altars of today. There was a large mural painting of St. Casimir which served as a background for the main altar.

During this remodeling the two sacristies were added and the sanctuary of the main altar was pushed back. The present altars and the communion rail were also installed at that time. The women of the Holy Rosary Society donated $600 for the Blessed Virgin Mary's altar. A group of men and women bearing the name of Joseph or Josephine, along with several others, contributed the money for the purchase of St. Joseph's altar. Likewise, the statue of St. Anthony was a gift of parishioners named Anton or Anthony. The Altar Society, during the presidency of Barbara Mockaitis, raised over $1,500 for the main altar. Casimir Grimal donated the statue of St. Casimir for this altar. The Sacred Heart statue was purchased mainly through the donations of Meliton Balsewicz, Dominic Galiszanski, Grasilda Twirbut, and Charles Wieta. The two little angels on the main altar were the gift of the Kizewic family. Many others contributed toward the communion rail and the baptismal font.

The contributions from the members were not sufficient, so a loan was made and a mortgage was given to Joseph Zvinis for $5,000 on July 29, 1927. It was satisfied July 6, 1929. Father Balinski guided his parishioners in a very friendly manner and it was with great sorrow, on a Sunday morning in September 1934, that we learned of his sudden death from a cerebral hemorrhage.

Rev. Joseph Martis from Indiana was appointed in September 1934, and stayed with us until 1941, when he was recalled to

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Co-Chairmen: Louise Dukshus Stankus
Stan Budrys

Committee: Tom and Joyce Petersen Firchow
Casimira Miskinis Grzyb
Ann Krucas
Etta Krucas
Mary Judicki Petersen
Joseph Pleckaitis
Ramas Pliura
Charles Tyllo

Thank You To: Altar Society of St. Casimir's
St. Casimir's Church Choir
Joseph Grimskis, Choir Director
Peter Vanko, Organist
Vyto Kapocius, Master of Ceremonies

Special thanks to the Lithuanian ladies who donated homemade Lithuanian tortes for dessert.

1988 ST. CASIMIR'S PARISH MEMBERSHIP

ADAMOWICZ, Peter & Elizabeth
ALBRECHT, Gregory & Lisa
ANDERSON, Ted & Mary
APERAVICH, Walter & Emma
ARVAI, David & Susan
ATKINSON, Clair & Viola
AUL, Richard & Charlotte
AYALA, Daniel
BADO, Joseph & Barbara
BAKER, Arthur
BANSE, Marie Ann
BARRINGTON, Robert & Anna Mae
BARROWS, John & Barbara
BAUER, Michael & Kelly
BEDNAREK, James & Mary Jane
BEHRINGER, Guenther & Mary
BELCONIS, Lawrence & Susan
BELCONIS, Peter & Marcella
BERANIS, Mary
BERANIS, Thomas & Carol
BERNHARDT, Michael & Doris
BERNHARDT, Richard
BERNS, Lewis & Joyce
BIRDSALL, Bernice
BOYLE, Joseph & Ann
BRAUN, Bernard & Patricia
BRINEN, Grace
BROEMER, Constance
BROSHAT, John & Jeanne
BROSHAT, Robert
BRUDNICKI, Victoria
BRUTON, Dr. John & Dorothy
BRUTON, Vincent
BUCHEK, Donna
BUCHEK, Joseph & Violet
BUDRYS, Stan & Ann
BUISSE, Bernard & Alice
CANFIELD, Richard & Judith
CARNEY, Jeffrey & Margaret
CARNEY, John & Kathleen
CELIESIUS, Frank
CHRISTINE, Raymond & Mary
CHRISTINE, Wallace & Frances
COOKE, Paul & Sally
COPPOLA, Eugene & Virginia
COUPE, Charles & Jean
COULTHART, Al & Rose
DADIAN, Jackie
DARREY, Dorothy
DAVIDSON, Frances
DAVIS, Leonard & Nancy
DEKEZEL, Emily
DEMARK, Carmella
DEMBOWSKI, Marcella
DEMING, Richard & Mary Ellen
DEVELIS, Bernardas
DIRKINTIS, Audie
DOPERALSKI, Felix & Sophia
DRUMMOND, William & Jacqueline
DUGAS, Christine
EDMONSTON, David & Georgene
ENDRES, James & Charmaine
ENDRES, Julia
ERICKSON, Julia
FADROSKI, Robert & Patricia
FARE, Richard & Jeanne
FEEST, Edward & Mae
FEEST, Mel & Elizabeth
FERRARO, Ralph & Helen
FIRCHOW, Thomas & Joyce
FITCH, James & Dolores
FLANAGAN, Elizabeth
FOLEY, John & Karolyn
FREDERICKSON, Kurt & Vicky
GABOR, John & Judith
GARDETTO, Dr. Peter & Helga
GAVIN, Philip & Sandra
GAYHART, Ronald & Glenda
GIBSON, John & Dolores
GLEASON, John & Annette
*GLEBIS, Ann Mary
GLEBIS, Stanley
GRANT, Helen
GREGORY, Josephine
GREGORY, Martha
GREEN, Joanne

Congregation was incorporated. From time to time, especially at Easter time, a Lithuanian priest was invited to hear confessions. Father Meyer officiated at the first marriages, baptisms, and burials.

In August, 1913, Rev. Vincent Slavinas was appointed to serve St. Casimir's Church. On August 24, 1913, the church was blessed by Father Meyer. The sum of $131.74 was collected during those services. The candlesticks, monstrance, chalice, vestments, and many other necessary articles were purchased by the St. Casimir's Society. The monstrance and candlesticks are still being used. After the ceremony at church, the entire congregation marched to Klinkert Park (North Side Bank now occupies the Klinkert Park site) to celebrate the joyous event with a picnic and dancing to the music of a band hired for $59.00.

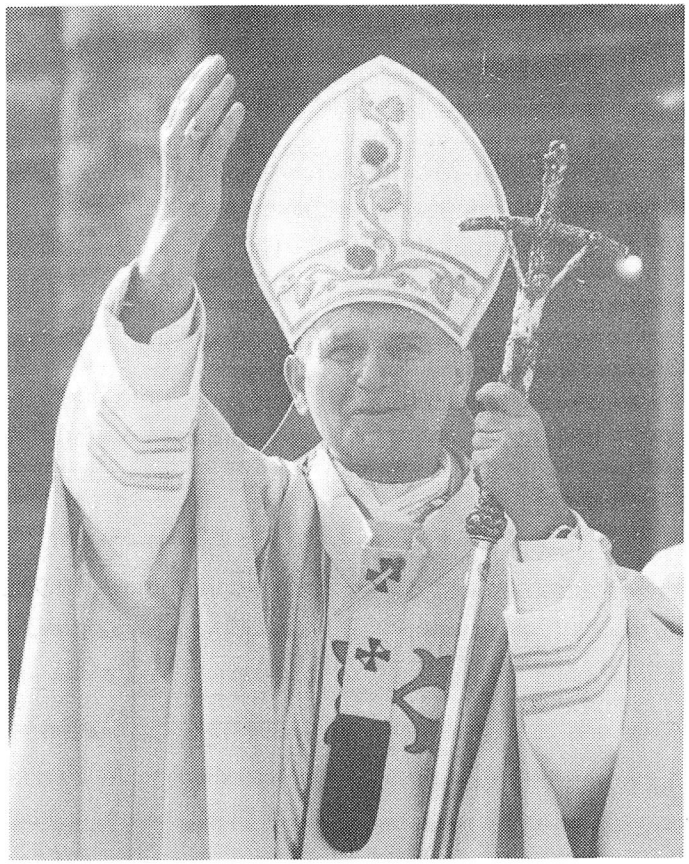
August 24, 1913, was a proud day for the Lithuanian Catholics. They had realized their ambition to have a church where they could worship God in their own language and follow the traditions of their native land. They envisioned a school and a rectory.

"Man proposes but God disposes." Turbulent years came upon them. Because of many misunderstandings between the trustees and the priests, the previous unity which the people had displayed so splendidly disappeared, and many members left the parish, and great financial problems appeared. Records of May 17, 1914, show a debt of $10,200--$4,000 to Case Realty Co., $2,700 to the bank, $800 to Father Meyer, and a $2,700 mortgage on the property on Mound Avenue. Finally a special meeting was called on December 28, 1916. It was decided to borrow $10,000 from the Fire Association of Philadelphia to pay off the existing debts. A motion was also made to start a school building fund. At this meeting Father Slavinas reported the following statistics:

There were 809 Lithuanian people in Racine:

357 men	78 families in the parish
157 women	67 families not in the parish
143 boys	44 marriages
152 girls	9 baptisms

It would appear from the above figures that the building of



HIS HOLINESS
Pope John Paul II

GRIMAL, Addie
GRIMSKIS, Juozas & Bernice
GRZYB, Casimira
GUARDIOLA, Ruben & Mary
HAAS, Edward & Elizabeth
HAAS, Rosemary
HALTER, Angelina
HAMILTON, Robert
HAMMES, Dr. James & Barbara
HAMMILL, Earl & Alma
HANSEN, Howard & Rose
HANSEN, JoAnn
HARDY, Gary
HAYSSEN, R. Goeres & Dolores
HECK, Alvin
HENKEL, Larry & Suzette
HENNINGFELD, Carlos & Virginia
HERMANSEN, Eugene & Dolores
HOSTAK, Kenneth & Genevieve
ISELIN, Georgia
ISELIN, Richard & Marilyn
ITZENHUISER, Ruth
ITZENHUISER, Sharon
JAMIESON, Dr. John & Yvonne
JASMONT, Felix & Hedwig
JEKLICH, Jeff & Denise
JENS, John & Diana
JEZERNIK, Frances
JOHNSON, Noel & Doris
JOHNSTON, Helen
KAPOCIUS, Algis
KAPOCIUS, Fili
KARDOS, Marijane
KASPARAITIS, Veronica
KASPERAITIS, Jonas & Ona
KAZEMEKAITIS, Juze
KAZEMEKAITIS, Viktoras & Ona
KEMEN, Lilian
KETARKUS, Jean
KETARKUS, John & Cecilia
KIERSTYN, Charles & Jacqueline
KIRT, Donald & Marylin
KIZIRNIS, Joseps & Valija
KLEINOTAS, Petras
KLYM, Marvin & Rose
KNAPP, Robert & Catherine
KOBS, Anne
KOHEL, Donald & Lois
KOHEL, James & Nancy
KOHLMAN, Peter & Grace
KOMPIS, Coralynn
KOZINA, James & Margaret
KRANIK, Bruce & Rose Mary
KRUCAS, Ann
KRUCAS, Hedwig
KRUCAS, James & Carol
KRUMBERGER, Fredrick & Marian
KUHNS, David
LAPINSKI, Lawrence & Dierdre
LARSEN, Steen & Janice
LENZKE, Richard & Nancy
LEUKER, John & Jo Ann
LIEBURN, Claude & Louise
LISCHKA, Terry & Deborah
MADDEN, Patrick & Shirley
MAINLAND, Roberta
MAJEWSKI, Eugene Jr. & Linda
MAJEWSKI, Eugene Sr. & Lucille
MANO, Rudy & Helen
MARINO, Eugene & Carmella
MARSH, Irma
MASIK, Frank & Violet
MASIK, Stanley & Mary Ann
MATELSKI, Stephan & Eileen
*MEDZIS, Ann
MEISSNER, John & Carol Jean
MIELKE, Mary Lou
MIKULSKY, Emily
MILLER, Clarence
MILLER, Virginia
*MISKINIS, Domicella
MORRIS, Robert & Ann
MUCINSKAS, Algis
MUHLKE, Amanda
MUNGER, Kenneth & Joanne
MURPHY, Rosalie
MURRAY, James
McCRORY, Patrick & Cynthia Ann
McILRATH, William & June
NEKROSIUS, Petras & Brone

NELSEN, Robert & Barbara
NELSON, Dr. Marvin & Margaret
NEUMANN, Alice
NIESEN, Ray & Marianne
NYGRO, Richard & Patricia
OBERST, Lisa
OBERST, Paul & Deanne
O'BRIEN, Patrick & Elizabeth
O'DONNELL, Gerald & Margaret
O'NEIL, Orville, Mary
ORAVETZ, Carl & Ruth
PARRISH, Harold & Ann
PETERSEN, James & Mary
PETKUNAS, Juozas & Eva
PETRUSAITIS, Petras & Stase
PEYTON, Jerome & Dorothy
PEYTON, John & Carol
PIRK, Wanda
PIVORIUNAS, Juze
PLECKAITIS, Joseph
PLECKAITIS, Vitas
PLIURA, Lionginas & Felicija
PLIURA, Ramas & Reda
POPLAWSKI, Virginia
PROCHASKA, Stephan & Vicky
PUTZ, Anthony & Genevieve
PUTZ, Martin
QUINN, Matthew & Donna
RADWILL, Scott & Kathleen
RAZDIK, Joseph & Patricia
RESAR, Katherine
RETZER, Helen
REYHEART, Margaret
RHODY, Doris
RICHARDS, Allen & Helen
RICHTER, Julia
RIEKKOFF, Cecilia
RIEKKOFF, Norbert & Dolores
RIVERA, Gene & Joanne
ROBERTS, Richard & Donna
ROESSLER, Fred & Rima
ROGALSKY, John
ROTH, Donald & Jane
RUDAN, John & Sally
RUETZ, William & Mary Lou
RUFFALO, Mary
SANDERS, Thomas & Georgann
SAROCKA, Julia
SATKUNAS, Stepas
SCHARDING, Edward & Margaret
SCHEMELIN, Hazel
SCHENKENBERG, Francis & Ann
SCHLIESMANN, Bernadette
SCHLIESMANN, Bernyce
SCHMITT, Lawrence & Mary Alyce
SCHOENE, Michael & Eileen
SCHRADER, Mildred
SCHULTZ, John & Katherine
SCHUMANN, Eric & Jane
SCHWEITZER, David & Debra
SHILLING, Edward
SHIMKUS, Edward
SHINKUNAS, Lucy
SMALL, Joseph & Dolores
SMITH, Dr. Lawrence & Mary
SMITH, Roger & Shirley
SPRING, John & Billie
STANKUS, Louise
STAPONAS, Caroline
STOTKEVICH, Ann
STOGNY, John & Dorothy
STOLL, Adolphina
STRACKE, John & Rose
SUPRAK, John & Barbara
SWENCKI, Joel & Debra
SWENCKI, Joseph & Lorayne
THOMAS, Vitas & Evelyn
TOMPSETT, Joseph & Mary
TUPPER, Robert & Stephanie
TYLLO, Charles & Patricia
UEBE, Phillip & Carol
VENSKUS, Arlene
VERIKAS, Aleksas & Elizabeth
VERWEY, Michael & Candice
VILCINAS, Vladas
VINDASIUS, Pranas & Martha
VOLK, John & Nancy
VOLLENDORF, Francis & Dorothy
WATERS, Kenneth & Kathy
WEBER, Carl & Marlys Jean

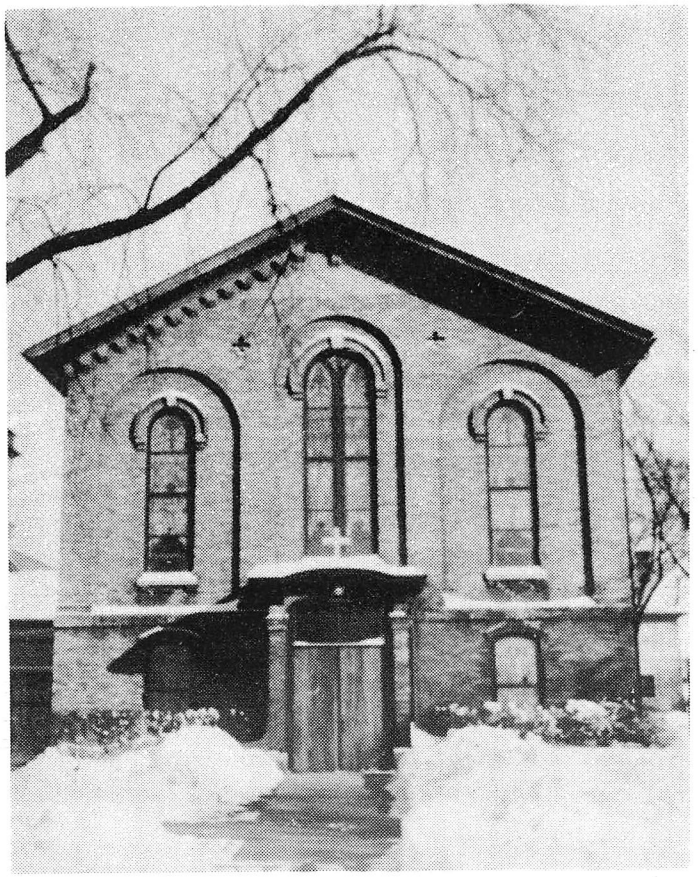
Theodore Meyer, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Racine, Wisconsin, St. Casimir's Congregation was incorporated on November 23, 1910. Articles of Incorporation at the Racine County Court House show that the Most Rev. Sebastian G. Messmer, Roman Catholic Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Louis Bunauskas, and Felix Ragauskas, laymen, were trustees.

Immediately, St. Casimir's Society became busy with picnics, dances, and other fund-raising activities. A committee was appointed to find a site. A record dated July 5, 1911, shows that St. Casimir's Congregation purchased from J. H. Miller some property on Mound Avenue, having a frontage of 110 ft., on a land contract--purchase price $5,000. The older members recall that there was a house on this property. In August of 1915, this property was sold to Morris Waisman for the same price. The $5,000 included a $2,700 mortgage which the congregation held. Mr. Waisman paid $600 cash, and then was to pay $30.00 a month. This included the interest of 6% and the payment of principal. The property was sold later by Mr. Waisman to the Whitman Realty Co. St. Casimir's received the last payment from Mr. Waisman in 1928.

In 1913, greater effort was made to raise funds. Committees were organized to canvass the Lithuanian homes. Records show that the largest donation was $25.00. The majority of the members contributed only a dollar.

During the summer of 1913, an opportunity presented itself whereby they could buy a church building. A seventy foot lot with a church building was purchased from the Park Avenue Congregational Church for $8,000. A $3,000 loan was received from the Manufacturer's Bank, $800 from Rev. Theodore Meyer, and a $4,000 mortgage was given to the Case Realty Co. The Warranty Deed was signed by Archbishop Messmer and Teofil Galiszanski on August 15, 1913. The Congregational Church had bought the lot in 1870, and the church edifice itself was completed in February of 1871. The property had cost the Welsh people $11,000.

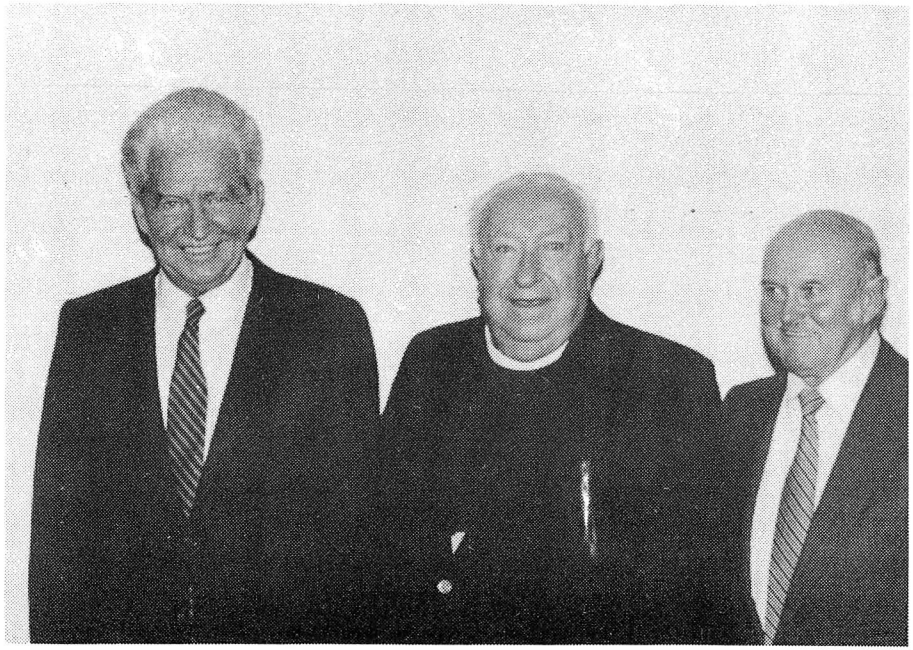
Rev. Francis Gugis served the Lithuanian people temporarily during June and July of 1913. Services were held at St. Mary's Church on College Avenue from the time St. Casimir's



St. Casimir's Church - 1913

WEBER, Lorraine
WERNER, Keith & Leona
WIDMAR, Clotilde
WILKINSON, Chris
WILLIAMS, John & Anne
WILLIS, Robert & Mary Jo
WOJCIK, Richard & Loretta
WOLK, Charles & Stella
WRIGHT, Thomas & Carol
YOUNK, Arthur & Helen
*YURKEVICH, Anna
ZAREMBA, Regina
ZIMMERS, Edward & Julia
ZINNEN, Charles & Lorraine

*INDICATES CHARTER MEMBER



Rev. Joseph Augunas, MIC Pastor
Charles Tyllo, Joseph Pleckaitis, Trustees

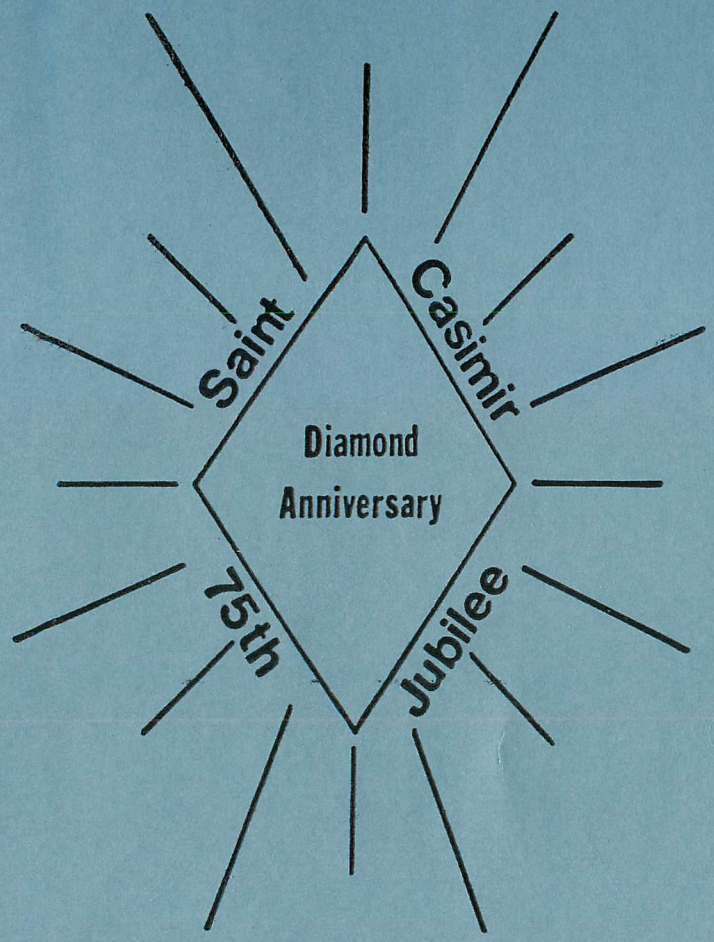
Church Sanctuary at Christmas time.

75th
DIAMOND JUBILEE
OF
ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH
1913 - 1988

"WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY." The Lithuanian people had and still have tremendous will power. During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries they repulsed the Teutonic Knights who pillaged their land when more powerful nations had failed. Lithuania became a buffer state because of her geographic location, and since the sixteenth century has been dominated by other nations, especially Russia. In spite of centuries of persecutions, this small nation of about three million people has not been completely subjugated as yet. Again and again the Lithuanians revolted, seeking religious, economic, cultural, and political freedoms--in 1797, 1812, 1863, and 1905. Even today Lithuanians continue to resist the Russian persecutions of this century and hope to be free once more. The blood of martyrs flows in their veins. Some 400,000 or more have suffered or died in Siberia or in their native land since 1941.

At the turn of the twentieth century, these intrepid people sought a better life in America. The tide of Lithuanian immigrants reached a peak between 1910 and 1913. This tide ended with the start of World War I in 1914. These immigrants were mainly peasants with little or no schooling because Russia had never allowed them to have a free Lithuanian press. However, they were sturdy, ambitious, and deeply relgious.

Every group of people has its leadeers, and soon some of the more enterprising individuals organized a benevolent society. Their first meeting was held January 3, 1903. Thirty one members joined and officers were elected. It was named St. Casimir's Society, in honor of St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania. Through the efforts of this society and Rev.



1913 – 1988

RACINE, WISCONSIN